

## **Iowa flood Issues Pertaining to UST Systems**

**UST Professionals:** Some of you will be involved with Iowa flood issues along the Missouri River. It appears we may have widespread flooding with inundated UST systems. Some of you will be called upon to assist with preparations to ballast tanks and also follow up.

Please follow DNR UST Emergency Policy Flood Guidance on our website:

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/land/ust/ustforms.html>. The notable exception to the guidance is we allow water to be used as ballast in the tanks due to the prohibitive cost of using fuel as ballast (see message below). Please let us know if there ways we can assist you or areas in which we need to follow up.

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DNR and PMCI prepared the following message to all PMCI members, and it applies to all UST operators in the flood prone areas as well.

**Beginning immediately, Iowa DNR UST Section will allow for flood prone underground storage tanks to be emptied of fuel and filled with water, temporarily. High fuel costs may prohibit using fuel as ballast. Owners and Operators must follow strict provisions provided by the DNR to assure no contaminated wastewater gets directly released to the environment.**

**Once a vac truck removes existing product from the tank, the tank may be filled with ballast water. Post flooding, ballast water must be removed by a third party vac truck operator and disposed of properly. Owners and Operators must check with local waste water authorities to determine if ballast water may be discharged into the sanitary sewer system. It is unlikely that sanitary systems will accept petroleum contaminated ballast water without first being tested and treated. At no time can this water be discharged directly to the environment or into a stormwater system.**

**PMCI members are encouraged to track sites and maintain proper manifests, locale of wastewater treatment/discharge, and companies providing this service. Documentation of the proper disposal of the petroleum contaminated tank ballast is required by the DNR. Field office personnel in Atlantic and Spencer are currently assisting communities with flood issues, and will visit affected tank sites over the next several weeks.**